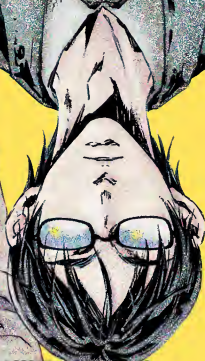
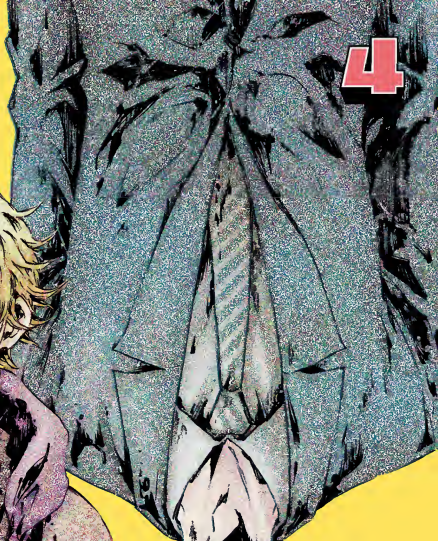


STORY BY
**TOMOHIRO
MAEKAWA**

ART BY
**JINSEI
KATAOKA**

4



FROM THE CREATOR OF DEADMAN WONDERLAND

LIVINGSTONE



LIVINGSTONE

4

Story: Tomohiro Maekawa

Manga: Jinsai Katataka

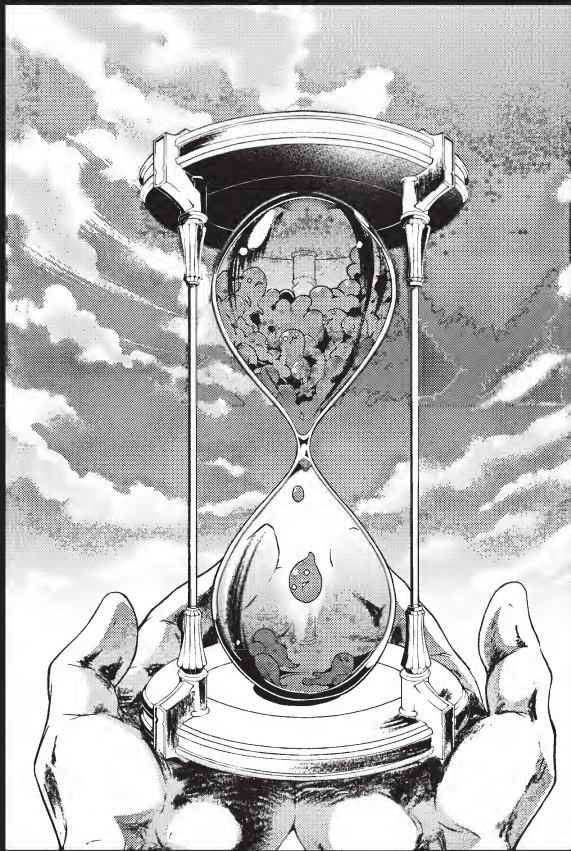
<i>Chapter 18: Time for Resolve</i>	3
<i>Chapter 19: Memory's Fuse</i>	33
<i>Chapter 20: Second Death</i>	63
<i>Chapter 21: Two Realities</i>	103
<i>Final Chapter: My Home Town</i>	147

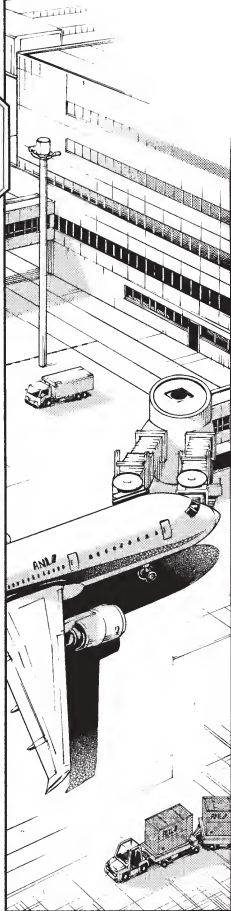


SIGN: Stone Shop



CAN: Persimmon



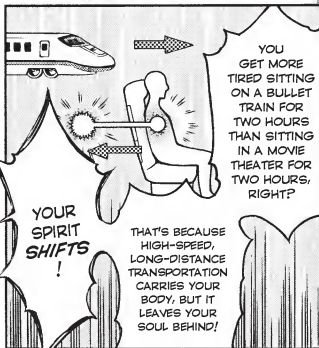




NO!

TOKIEDA-
SAN
TOLD ME
ABOUT IT
A WHILE
BACK!

THAT'S TOO
FAST FOR A
HUMAN
BEING!
MODERN
CIVILIZATION
IS NOT
NATURAL!



YOUR
SPIRIT
SHIFTS
!

THAT'S BECAUSE
HIGH-SPEED,
LONG-DISTANCE
TRANSPORTATION
CARRIES YOUR
BODY, BUT IT
LEAVES YOUR
SOUL BEHIND!

YOU
GET MORE
TIRED SITTING
ON A BULLET
TRAIN FOR
TWO HOURS
THAN SITTING
IN A MOVIE
THEATER FOR
TWO HOURS,
RIGHT?



HURRY UP,
SAKURAI.

IT'S ONLY
TWO AND
A HALF
HOURS.

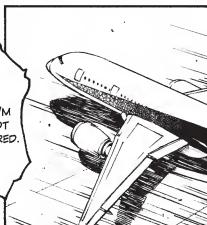
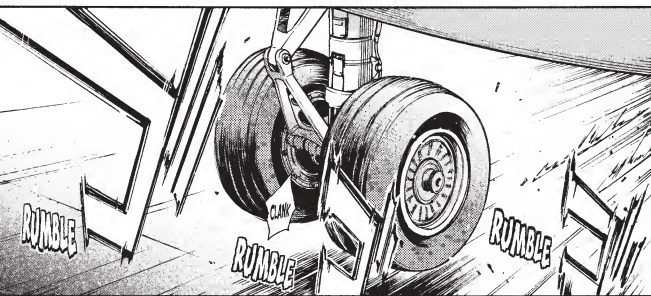


YOU'RE
SCARED OF
FLYING?

LOSER.

...WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH YOU,
MISTER?

AND
JET LAG
IS JUST
ANOTHER
INSTANCE
OF THAT...



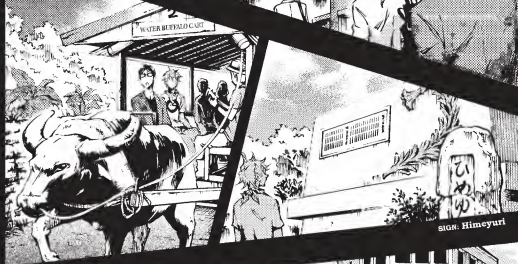
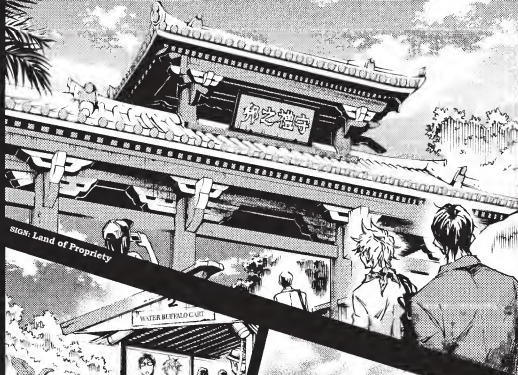


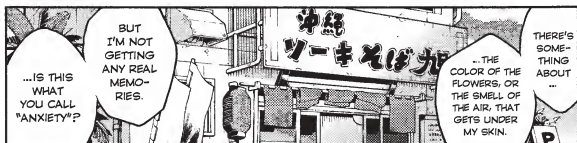


SIGNS: Naha Airport, Domestic Flights









SGN: Okinawa Soki Soba Asahi





THEY SAY
IT HAPPENS IN
ADOLESCENCE WHEN
YOUR HORMONE
BALANCE GOES OUT
OF SYNC WITH
THE GROWTH RATE
OF YOUR BRAIN.

IT'S
SOME-
THING ALL
HUMANS
GO
THROUGH.

IT COULD
ALSO BE
ANOTHER
INSTANCE
OF SOUL
SHIFTING,
THOUGH.

IT'S WHEN A
PERSON LOSES
SENSE OF WHO
THEY ARE AND
BECOMES
ANXIOUS
BECAUSE
OF IT.

BUT ONCE WE
GET CAUGHT UP
WITH WORK OR WITH
ANY OF THE OTHER
IMMEDIATE REALITIES
IN FRONT OF US,
WE TEND TO
FORGET ALL
ABOUT IT.



YOU JUST
NEED TO
GET BACK
TO WORK,
AMANO-KUN,
AND I'M
SURE...

AND HOW
ABOUT THAT?
TOKIEDA-SAN
ACTUALLY
GAVE ME
SOME RETURN
TICKETS
ALREADY.

IF
YOU'RE
NOT
REMEM-
BERING
ANYTHING,
WE
SHOULD
JUST GO
HOME.



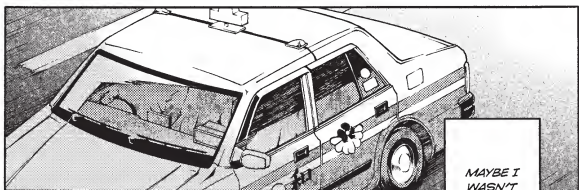
THEY
FORGET
THEM-
SELVES?
AND
THAT'S
OKAY?

IS THAT
NORMAL
FOR
HUMANS
WHO HAVE
SOULS?

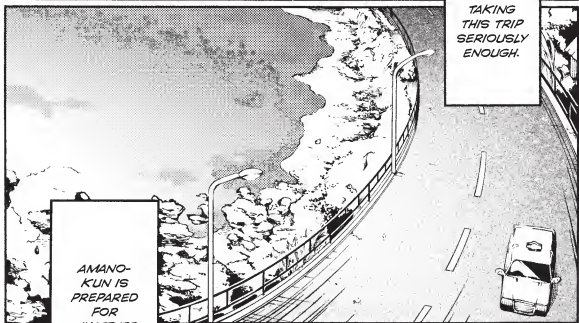
IS THAT
NORMAL
?

EVERYONE
JUST
GIVES
UP ON
TRYING
TO FIND
THEM-
SELVES
?

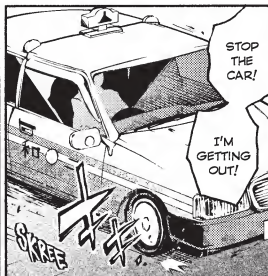
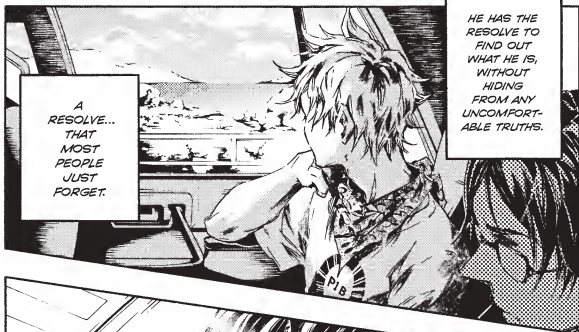


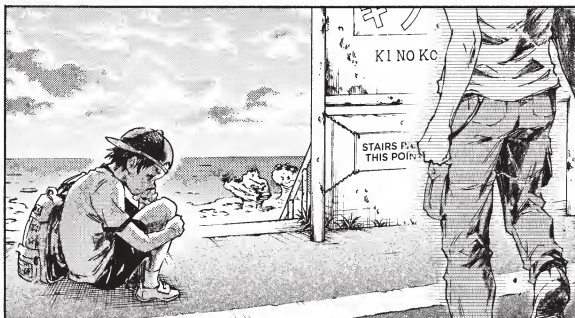


MAYBE I
WASN'T
TAKING
THIS TRIP
SERIOUSLY
ENOUGH.

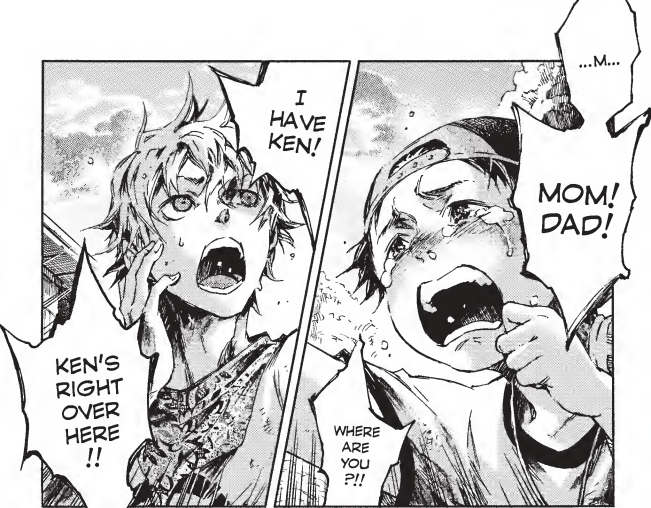


AMANO-
KUN IS
PREPARED
FOR
WHATEVER
COMES.





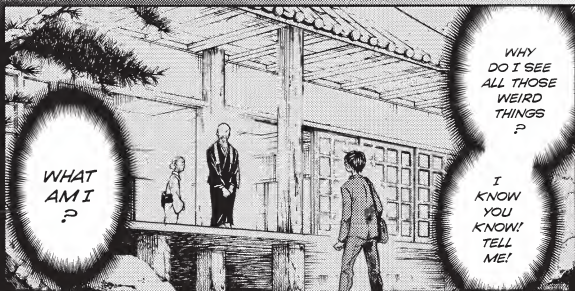


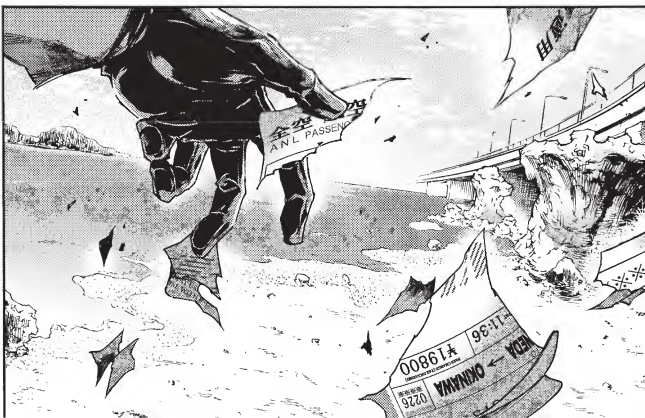






HEY









I
HAVE
AN
IDEA.

IF
YOU CAN'T
FIND ANY
CLUES, LIKE
MEMORIES OR
PEOPLE YOU
KNOW...

SIGNS (R TO L):
Taco Rice
Gift Shop
Chili Spice
Okinawa Ramen



WHOA...

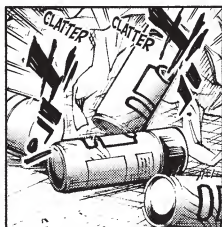
SIGN: Okinawa Awamori

SIGNS: Okinawa Shisaa, Gift Shop



THIS
PIC'S
GOING
ONLINE.

WHOA, THAT
MURAL IS
AWESOME!



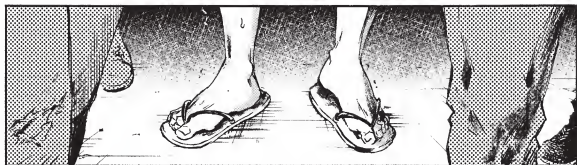


HEY...

I'VE SEEN
THAT PIECE
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE.

HEY,
I WAS
THINKING
THE SAME
THING!

OH, YEAH...
WASN'T IT AT
SOME EVENT
WAY BACK
WHEN?





...YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME.

HUH...

BUT
THAT
PIECE
...







Chapter 19 Memory's Fuse



YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME...

THIS
PIECE
...



SIGNS: Gifts, sweet potatoes



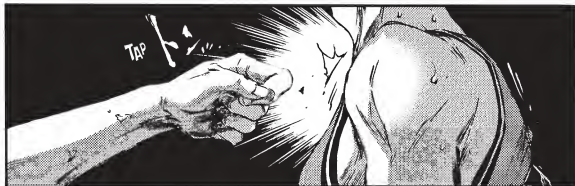
MAKOTO...
IS THAT
YOU?!

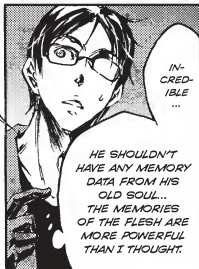


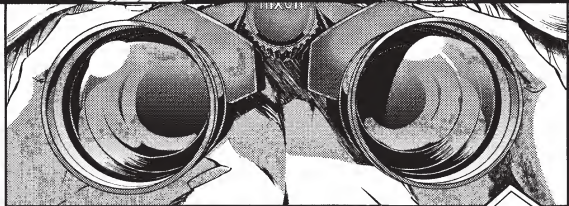
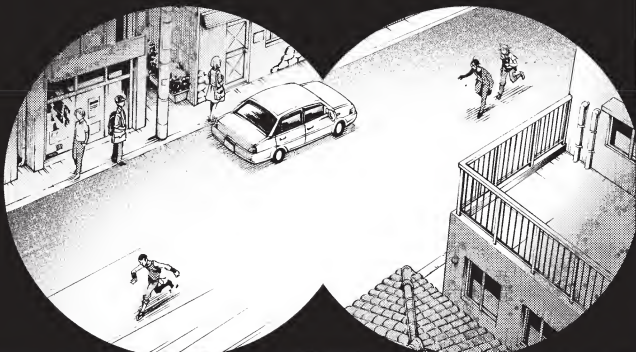
DID
HE KNOW
AMANO-KUN
BEFORE HE
BECAME A
CLEANER?

...!





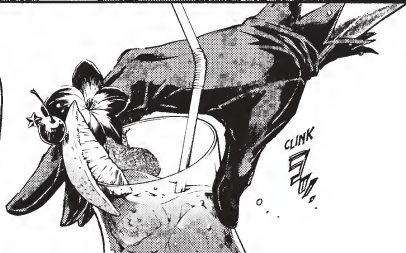




THE
TARGET
IS ON
THE
MOVE.

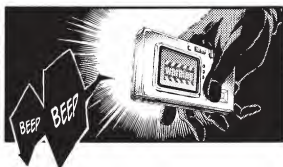
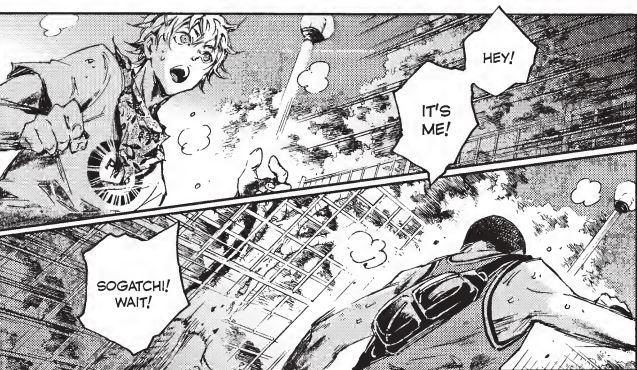
HMPH.

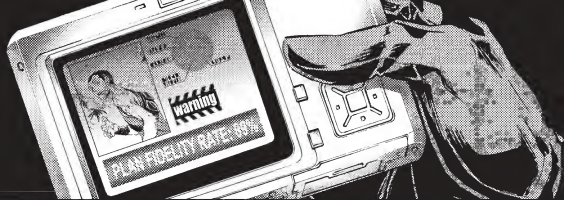
THE
IDIOT'S
DONE IT
NOW.



CLINK
ZZZ

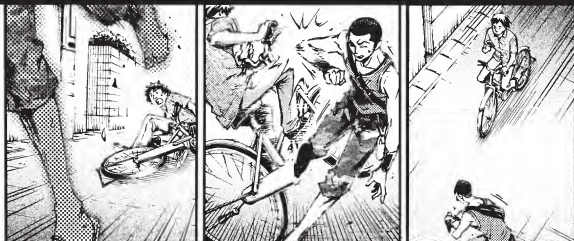




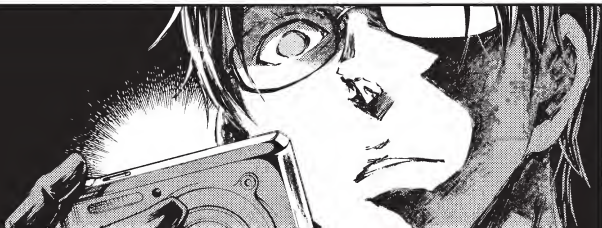




PLAN FIDELITY RATE: 62%

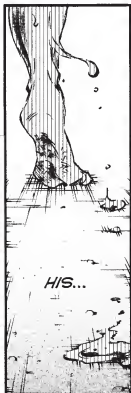


PLAN FIDELITY RATE: 49%





...IS
BREAKING
APART
?!



HIS...



...SOUL...



SOME-
THING'S
WRONG...!
HIS PLAN
FIDELITY
RATE KEEPS
DROPPING.

HE'S
RUNNING
INTO ONE
MIS-
FORTUNE
AFTER
ANOTHER
?!

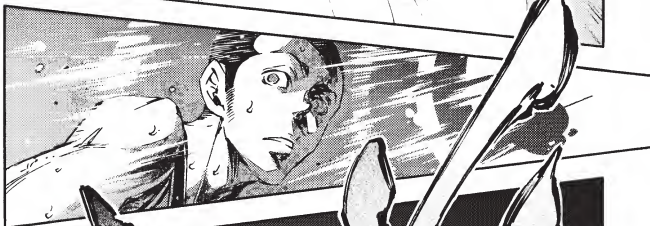
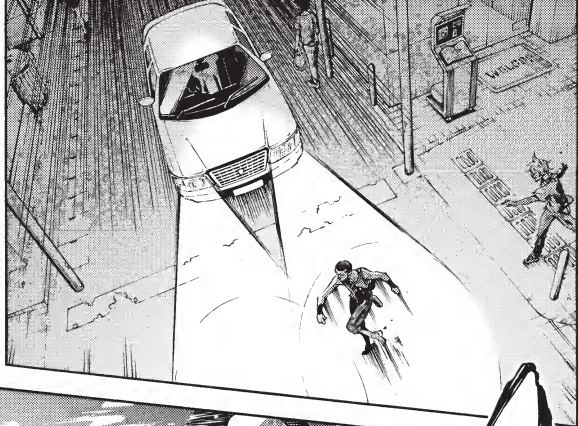
SIGN: Flower Cupid



"...THE
KID'S..."



...A
BOMB
NOW."









...WHAT
THE
HELL
?!

AM I
LOSING
MY
MIND
?!

WHO
ARE
YOU
?!

ARE
YOU A
GHOST?!
A ZOMBIE
?!

YOU'RE
NOT
MAKOTO
!!

MAKOTO...
MAKOTO'S...





IF YOU
TOUCH
HIM...
YOU'LL
MAKE IT
WORSE.

...LOOK
CLOSELY.



DON'T,
AMANO-
KUN.



...SO-
GATCHI
P

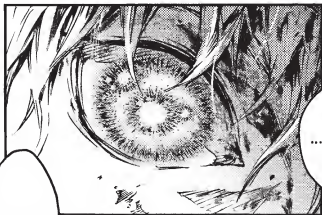


YOU'RE
A CLEANER—
A SOULLESS PIECE
OF FLESH WITH A
SUBSTITUTE STONE
INSIDE... I THINK YOU
EXIST OUTSIDE OF
"THE PLANS" AND THE
LAWS OF NATURE.
SO...

...TO THE
PEOPLE WHO
KNEW YOU
BEFORE,
YOU'RE...

YOU...

YOU'RE A
BOMB.



I SEE.



...OH.



CLATTER...



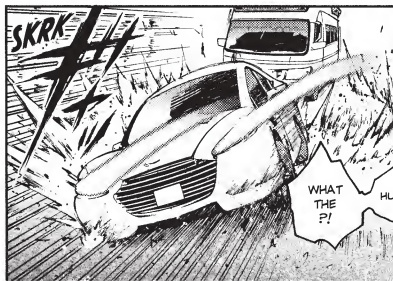
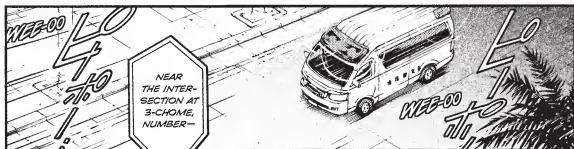
BECAUSE
I'M
ALREADY
DEAD.

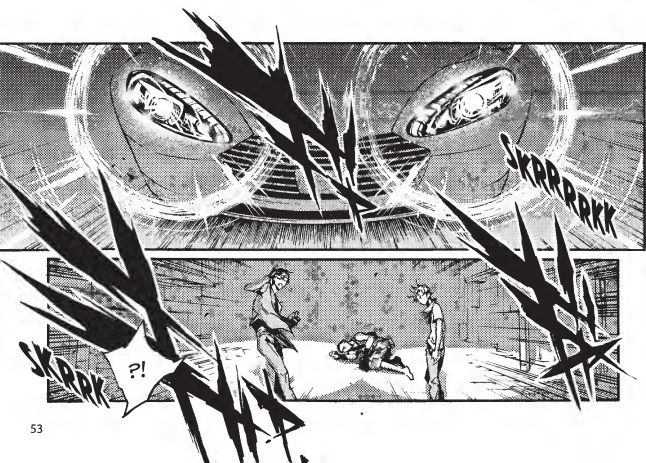


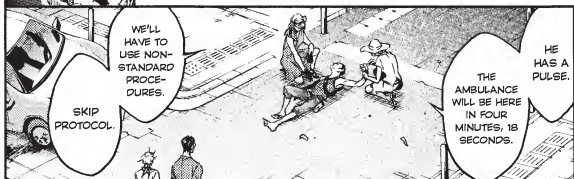
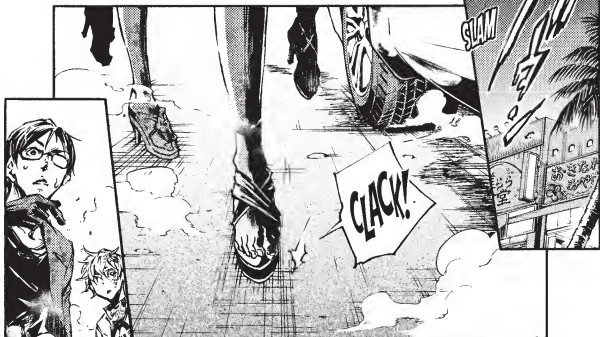
RIGHT.

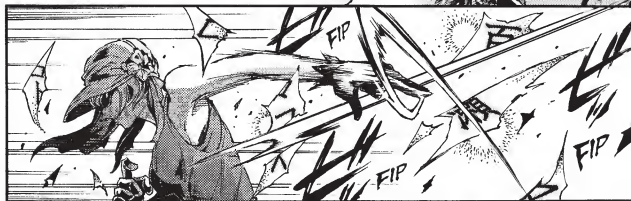
I'M...NOT
SUPPOSED
TO EXIST.











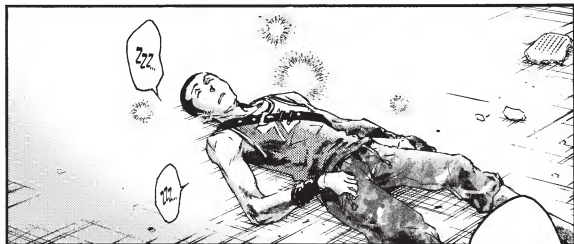


HMP?

I
FEEL LIKE
SOMETHING
BIG JUST
HAPPENED
...



DELETION
COMPLETE.



AS FOR THE
KID WITH THE
BUZZ CUT'S
SOUL PLAN...



I
MEAN
...

WE
ARE IN
OKINAWA,
AREN'T
WE?

SO
WHY
ARE
YOU
HERE
?

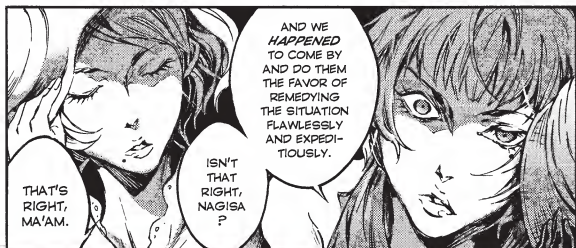
UMMM
...

MAY I
SPEAK
NOW?



...GOOD.
I THINK
WE CAN
RESTORE
IT.





SLAM!

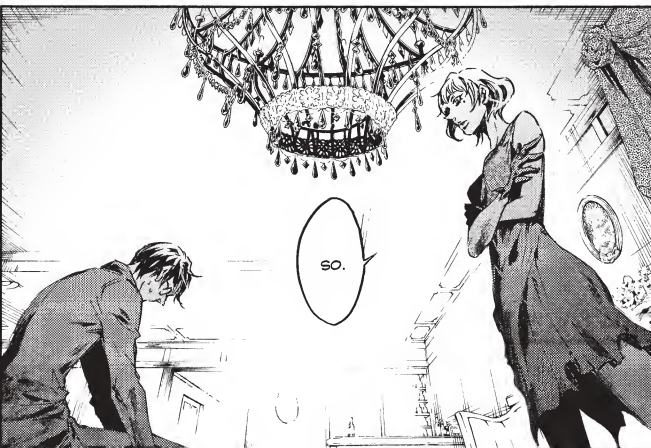
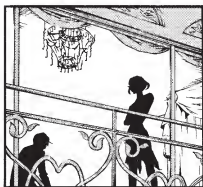
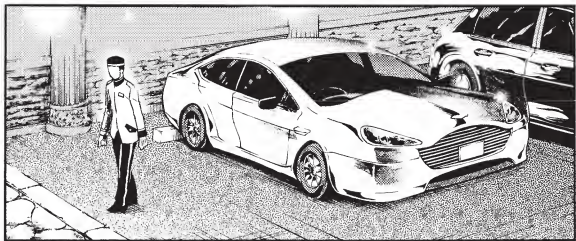


I AM
WELL WITHIN
MY RIGHTS TO
GIVE YOU A
LONG, STERN
TALKING-TO,
WHICH I
BELIEVE YOU
BOTH NEED.



Chapter 20 Second Death





THE SOUL CYCLE
IS A CRITICAL LAW OF
THIS WORLD'S NATURE THAT
MUST NEVER BE OPPOSED,
AND YOU HAVE REVEALED
YOURSELF TO BE SUCH A
COMPLETE IMBECILE THAT YOU
CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND
THAT IT IS OUR JOB TO
PROTECT, MONITOR, MAINTAIN
AND ASSIST THAT CYCLE.
ALTHOUGH I MIGHT BE
EXPECTED AS MUCH AS
SOMEONE WITH YOUR
DORKY GLASSES AND
WRINKLED SUNGLASSES
SCRUFFY HAIR.

I ALWAYS KNOW
WE WERE NATURAL
BUT I DIDN'T
WE WERE SO SURE
WOULD TRY TO
TOOL'S ROOTS" AND GO SO
FAR BEYOND THE TERRITORY
OF THE BATTLE
THAT THE
REAL

SURELY
YOU HAVE
SOME IDEA OF
HOW FOOLISH YOUR
ACTIONS HAVE BEEN
AND HOW YOU HAVE
SHOWN A COMPLETE
AND UTTER LACK
OF AWARENESS THAT
WE ARE A CLEANER
AND YOU HAVE NO
IDEA YOU ARE
DEALING WITH
NO ONE

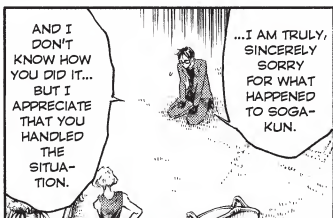
SAKURAI,
WAS IT?

IS BEING
HAPPENED
YOU ENDED
USING AN INNO
VILLIAN INTO YOUR
PLANS AND THROWING
HIS SOUL'S PLAN COM-
pletely OFF COURSE,
AND AFTER ALL THAT,
YOU SHOWER EVERYTHING
IN STAINBEASTS, WHICH
LED TO NO LESS THAN
A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT,
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? DO
YOU UNDERSTAND
ME?

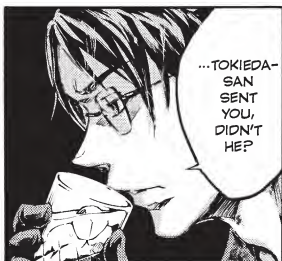
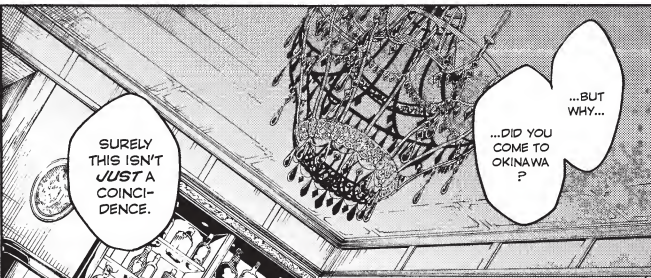
SO, MORON,
I'VE JUST ABOUT
FORGOTTEN YOUR
NAME BY NOW, AND
I THINK I'LL CALL
YOU SOMETHING
LIKE "IDIOT,"
"DULLARD,"
"BLOCKHEAD,"
"NUMBSKULL,"
OR "INCOMPETENT
COCKROACH."
I'M SURE YOU
HAVE NO
OBJECTIONS,
DO YOU?

SO YOU
SHOULD TRY
SHOWING
AN OUNCE
OF PENITENCE!
EVEN A MONKEY
CAN DO THAT.
I'D HAVE YOU SPIN
AROUND THREE TIMES
WHILE OINKING, BUT
THAT WOULD BE
AN INSULT TO THE
ANIMAL KINGDOM,
BECAUSE YOUR
POWERS OF
JUDGMENT ARE
LESS THAN
THOSE OF AN
ANIMAL.

HAD THE
POSSIBILITY
THAT THIS MIGHT
HAPPEN EVEN
OCCURRED TO YOU
FOR AN INSTANT?!
IF WE HADN'T
HAPPENED TO ARRIVE
ON THE SCENE, YOU
WOULD HAVE BECOME
THE FURTHEST THING
FROM A "MANAGER"
OF SOULS, YOU'D
HAVE BEEN A
"DESTRUCTOR"
OF THEM.









YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
AMANO-
KUN FEELS.
HE HAS A
NEED TO
KNOW
HIMSELF.

BUT
NEITHER
OF YOU
UNDER-
STAND.

...I
UNDER-
STAND
WHAT
YOU AND
TOKIEDA-
SAN ARE
TELLING ME.
I REALLY
DO.

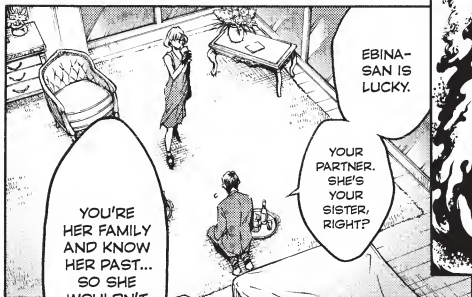


HE'S...
A CHILD.



HE'S
CRYING,
"I'M
RIGHT
HERE."

HE'S
WAITING
FOR
SOMEONE
TO COME
FIND HIM.



EBINA-
SAN IS
LUCKY.

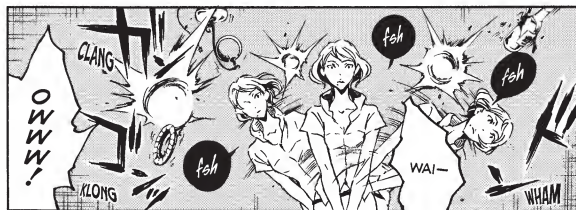
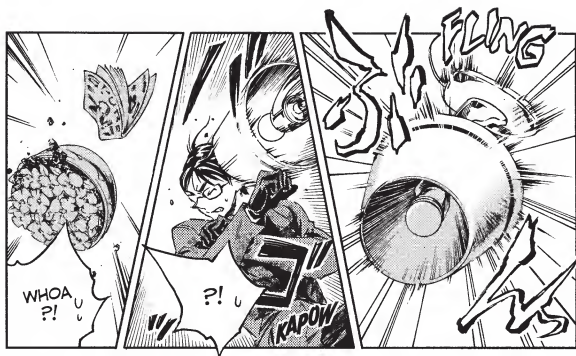
YOUR
PARTNER.
SHE'S
YOUR
SISTER,
RIGHT?

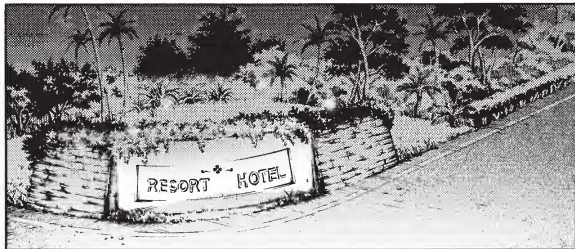
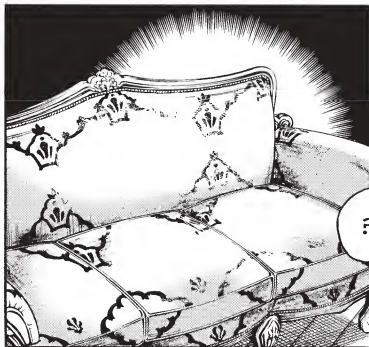
YOU'RE
HER FAMILY
AND KNOW
HER PAST...
SO SHE
WOULDN'T
HAVE THAT
ANXIETY.

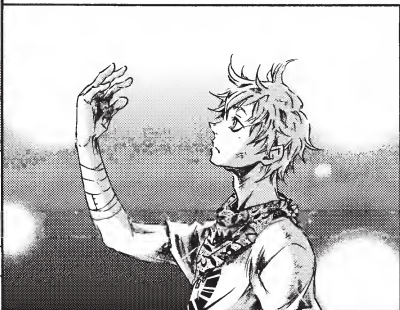


IF
YOU ONLY
KNEW HOW
ANXIOUS
IT'S MAKING
HIM...NOT
HAVING A
PLACE TO
BELONG...

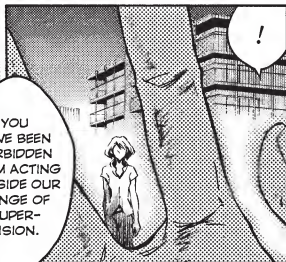








YOU
HAVE BEEN
FORBIDDEN
FROM ACTING
OUTSIDE OUR
RANGE OF
SUPER-
VISION.



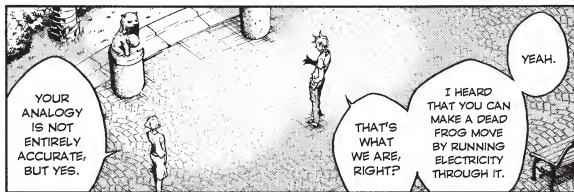
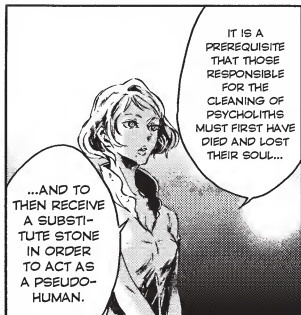
THE
SUITE
IS A
40-MAT*
ROOM.

?

YEAH, BUT...
THAT ROOM
WAS JUST
SO SMALL.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

*711.7 square feet





HOW
ARE
WE
DIFFER-
ENT
...

...FROM
ANYBODY
WHO'S
ALIVE?



MAKOTO...



...IS GONE.
HE'S DEAD.



SHE'S
YOUR
SISTER,
RIGHT
?

YOUR
TWIN.

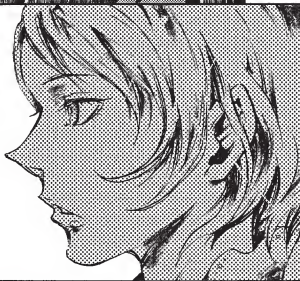
DON'T
YOU
THINK
ABOUT
THAT
STUFF
?

...YOU'RE
ALWAYS
WITH
SOMEONE
FROM
YOUR
OLD
FAMILY.





THAT
WOMAN...



THAT
TOOL...

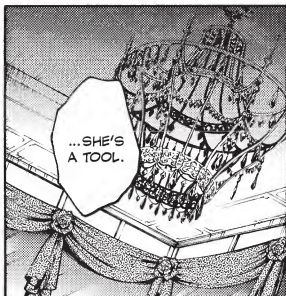




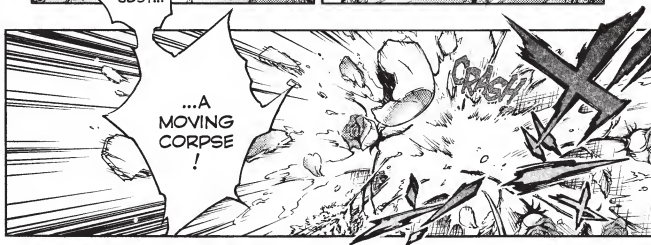


HOW
MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE
TO TELL
YOU?!

SHE'S
JUST...



...SHE'S
A TOOL.



...A
MOVING
CORPSE
!



...



...THAT'S
NOT
TRUE.



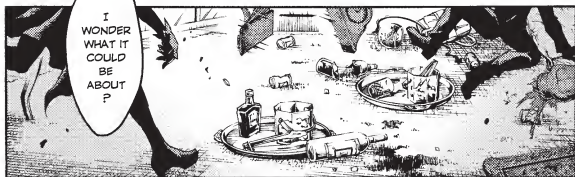
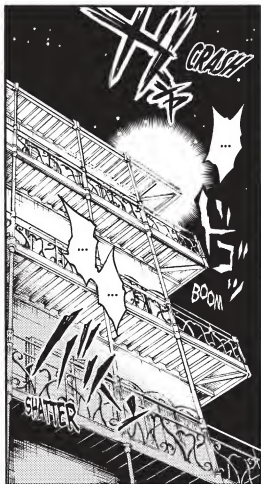
THAT'S
HOW THEY
LOSE ALL
THEIR
USEFUL-
NESS!

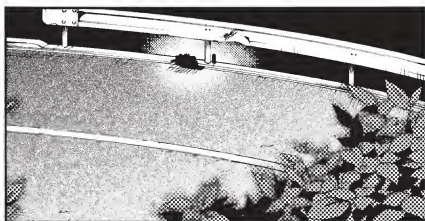
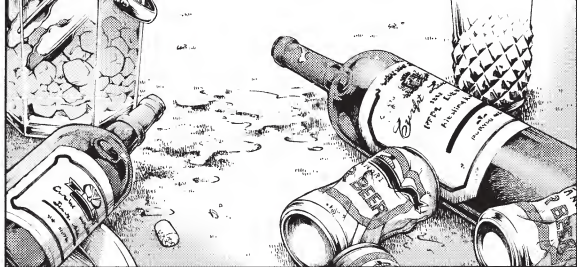
BUT
YOU—YOU
JUST HAVE
TO KEEP
BEING ALL
EMOTIONAL
WITH
THEM!

THAT'S
WHAT MAKES
THEM RE-
SPOND WITH
SOMETHING
LIKE
EMOTIONS
OF THEIR
OWN!

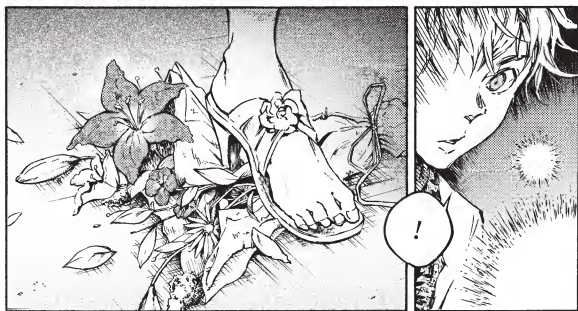






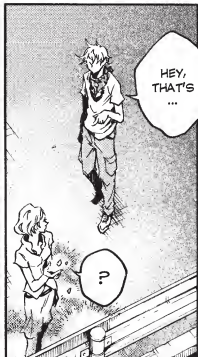


...SO
EVEN WIDE
ROADS LIKE
THIS HAVE
ACCIDENTS.



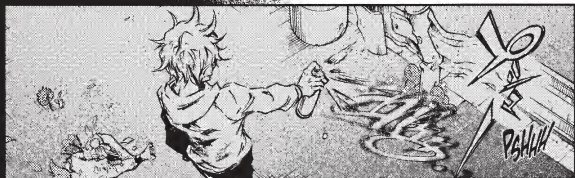


SOME-
ONE PUT
THOSE
THERE
...



HEY,
THAT'S
...

?

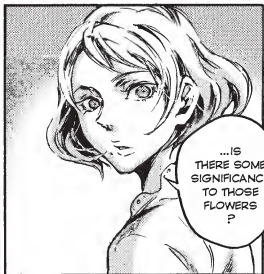


PSHWWW

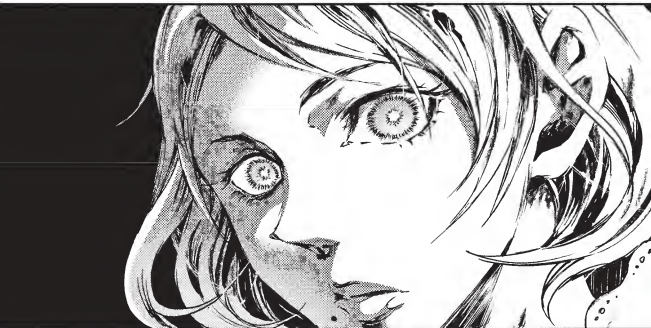


ARE THOSE
FLOWERS FOR
ONE OF THOSE
"MEMORIAL"
THINGS?

YOU DON'T
NEED THAT.



...IS
THERE SOME
SIGNIFICANCE
TO THOSE
FLOWERS
?



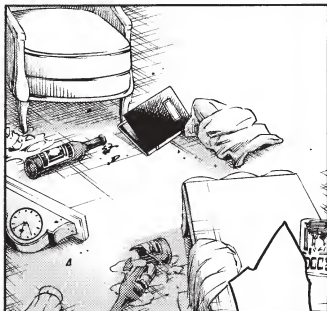
I...

I'VE...

...CHANGED.

...NO.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



UNLIKE
YOU...



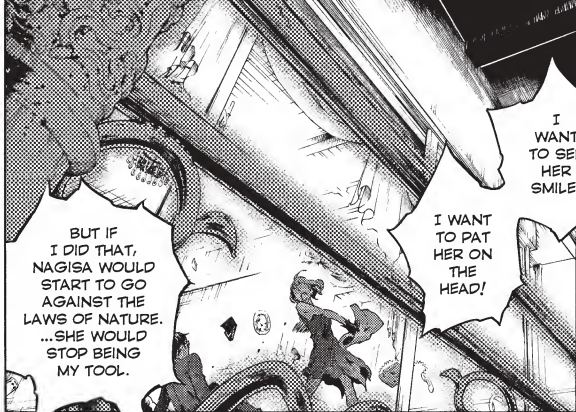
...I HAVE
SOME SELF-
CONTROL!



WHAT
?

WHAT
AM I
TURNING
INTO
?

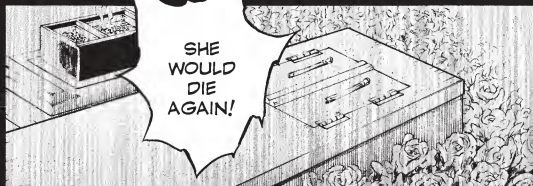




BUT IF
I DID THAT,
NAGISA WOULD
START TO GO
AGAINST THE
LAWS OF NATURE.
...SHE WOULD
STOP BEING
MY TOOL.

I
WANT
TO SEE
HER
SMILE!

I WANT
TO PAT
HER ON
THE
HEAD!



SHE
WOULD
DIE
AGAIN!



SO
I HOLD
MYSELF
BACK...

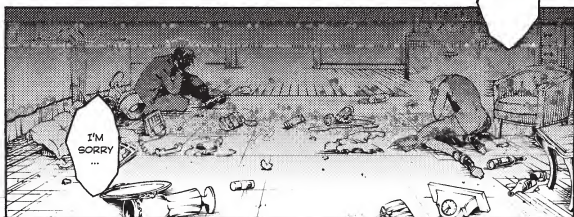
I
WANT TO
BE ABLE TO
HEAR HER
VOICE, EVEN
IF THERE'S
NOTHING
OF HER
IN IT!

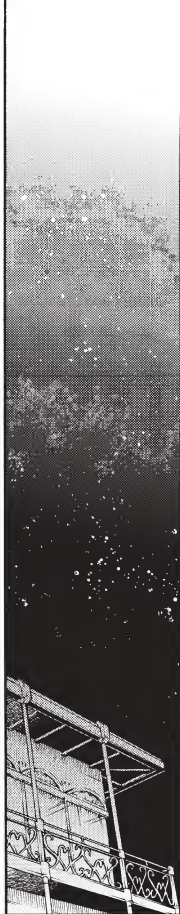
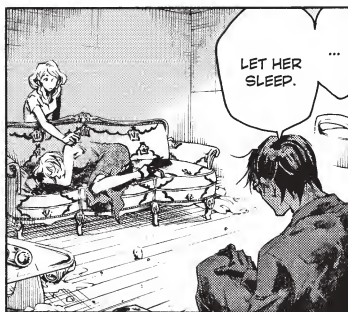
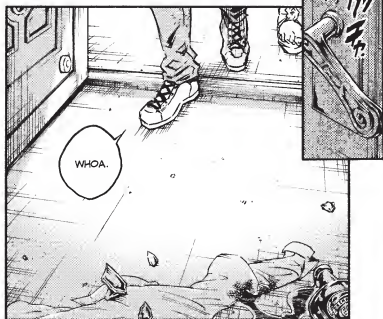
SO I
WANT
TO BE
ABLE
TO SEE
HER AS
LONG
AS I
CAN!

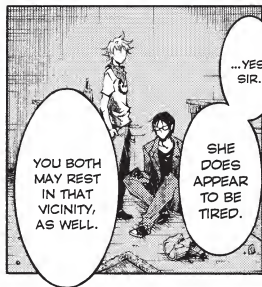


WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
WOULD
WANT TO
MAKE
HER OWN
SISTER
DIE
AGAIN
?!

YOU
FOUR-
EYED
IDIOT
!!



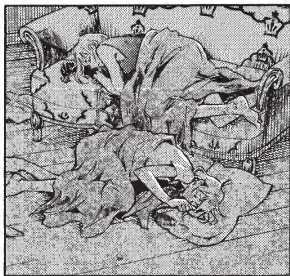
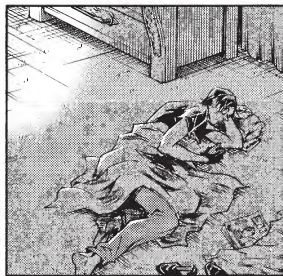
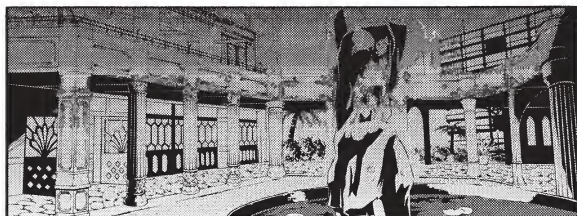


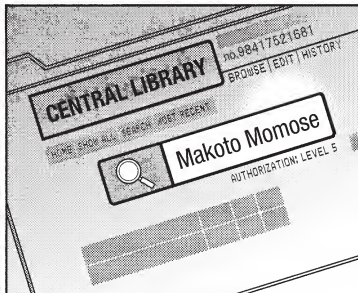
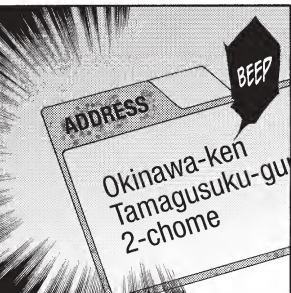
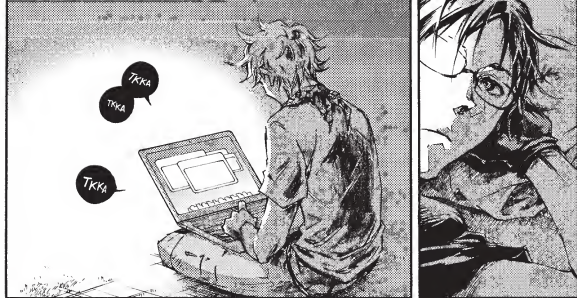


...YES,
SIR.

YOU BOTH
MAY REST
IN THAT
VICINITY,
AS WELL.

SHE
DOES
APPEAR
TO BE
TIRED.





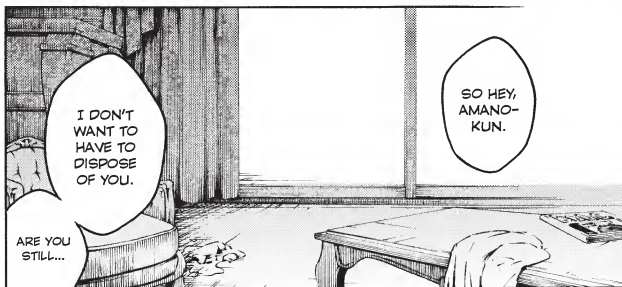


HUH.

I GUESS
WE'RE IN
SYNC.



...



I DON'T
WANT TO
HAVE TO
DISPOSE
OF YOU.

ARE YOU
STILL...

SO HEY,
AMANO-
KUN.



I'M
GOING.



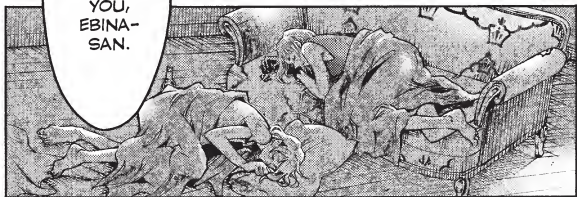
...OKAY.

THEN
WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER.

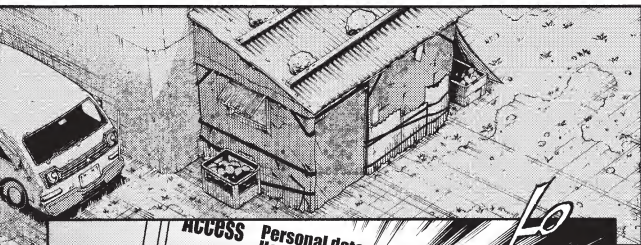




...THANK
YOU,
EBINA-
SAN.



FOR
WORRY-
ING
ABOUT
US.



ACCESS Personal data
Handling level 5

Makoto Momose

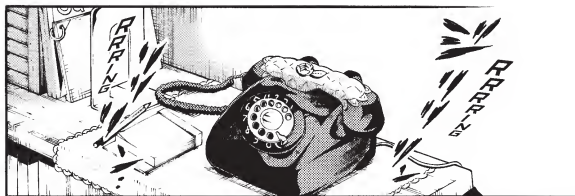
Alert

User name

to handling of information

Lo
BEEP

BEEP







SIGN: Momose



Chapter 21 Two Realities



KA-
CLUNK

KA-
CLUNK

KA-
CLUNK

KA-
CLUNK

KA-
CLUNK

KA-
CLUNK

ISN'T IT
A LITTLE
EARLY
TO SEE
OUT HERE,
Y'KNOW?

THERE'S
NOTHING
TO SEE
OUT HERE,
Y'KNOW?





WHERE'RE
YOU
FELLAS
FROM
FROM
ANYWAY
?

UM...
UH,
TOKYO.
WE'RE
HERE
ON
VACA-
TION.

I'M
FROM
AROUND
HERE,
MISTER.

I'M
GOING
BACK
HOME.



THINGS'VE
CHANGED
AROUND
HERE.

HEY.

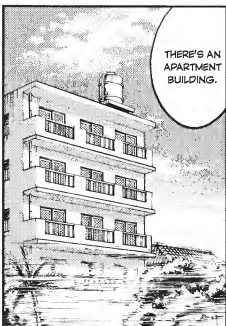
...?

"MISTER"
?



I
USED
TO COME
HERE ALL
THE
TIME TO
CATCH
THEM.

THERE
ARE
GIGANTIC
GRASS-
HOPPERS
IN THIS
FIELD.

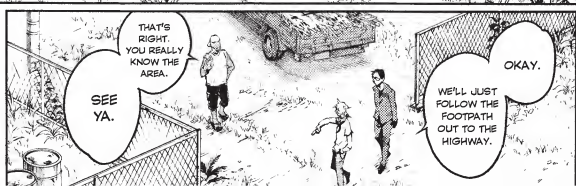


THERE'S AN
APARTMENT
BUILDING.



YOU'RE
GONNA
HAVE TO
WALK
FROM
HERE.

SKREE
#1
WELL,
SEE YOU,
BOYS.



SEE
YA.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
YOU REALLY
KNOW THE
AREA.

OKAY.

WE'LL JUST
FOLLOW THE
FOOTPATH
OUT TO THE
HIGHWAY.



THAT
RIVER
THERE.

THERE'S
LIKE A
MILLION
CRAYFISH
IN
THERE.

BUT
THERE'S
A TON
OF MOS-
QUITOES,
TOO.



...



SHE
ALWAYS
GETS
UP
EARLY.

*JUST
YESTERDAY,*
SHE WOKE
UP AT FIVE
TO CLEAN
THE SHOP.

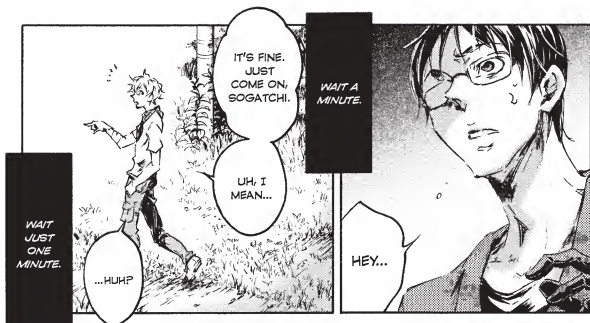
DON'T
WORRY.
MOM
SHOULD
BE
THERE.

HMP

...HEY,
IS
EVERY-
THING
OKAY
?

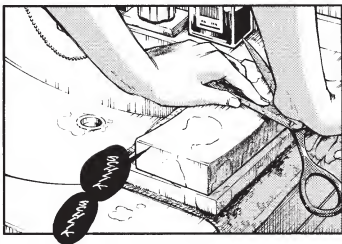
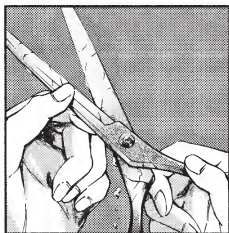
ARE HIS
MEMO-
RIES
COMING
BACK...

...AS
WE GET
CLOSER
TO HIS
HOME
?













JUST
A...



HUHP
UGH...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
?!



YOU'LL
BREAK
HER
SOUL'S
PLAN!

DON'T YOU
REMEMBER?
YOU'RE A
BOMB NOW!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO IN! LET'S
JUST GET A
GOOD LOOK
AT IT FROM
HERE AND GO
HOME, OKAY?



WHO
ARE YOU,
ANYWAY
?!

LET
GO OF
ME!

WHAP!



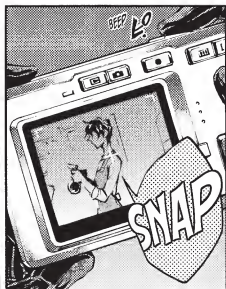


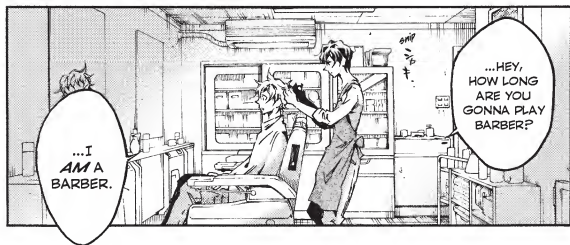
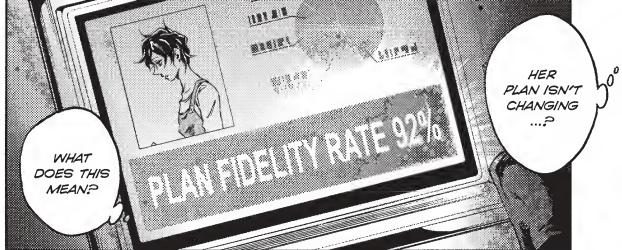


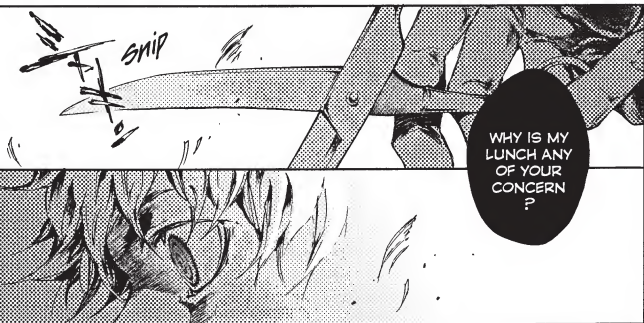


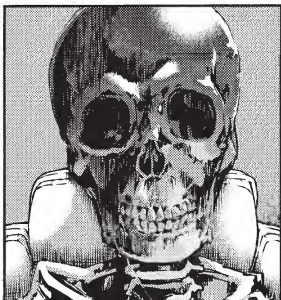
YES,
MA'AM.

...?









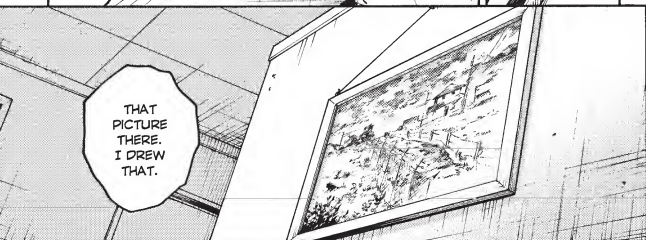


NO I
DIDN'T.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?
...I MEAN,
LOOK.

...IS
SOME-
THING
THE
MATTER
?

KA-
THUNK



THAT
PICTURE
THERE.
I DREW
THAT.



I
WANTED
TO ADD
JUST A
LITTLE
MORE.

HERE.
SEEP
ON THIS
BIRD...



BUT I
DIDN'T
HAVE
ENOUGH
TIME TO
FINISH
IT.

GRAB

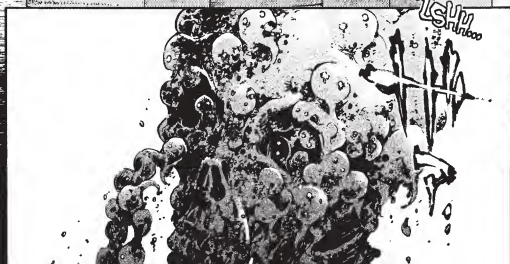
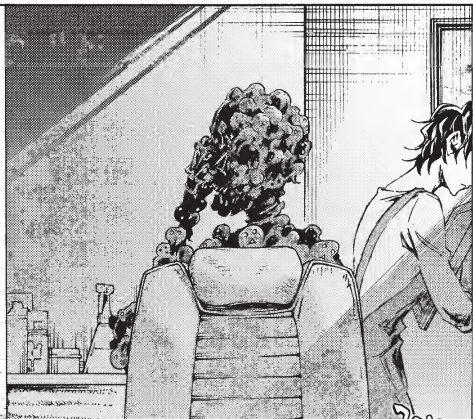


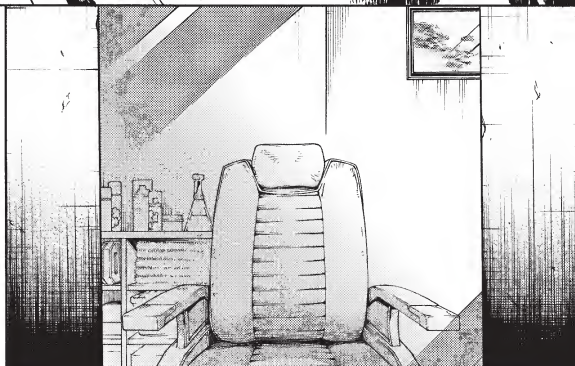
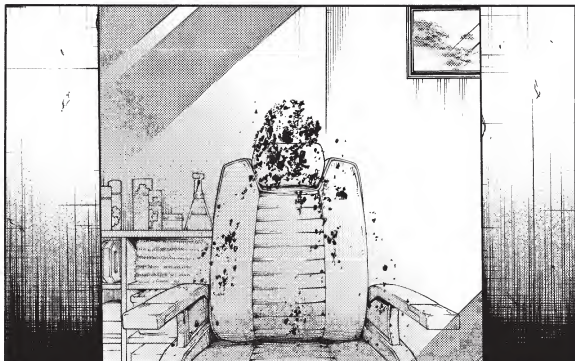
YEAH. I
GOT AN
AWARD
FOR IT.

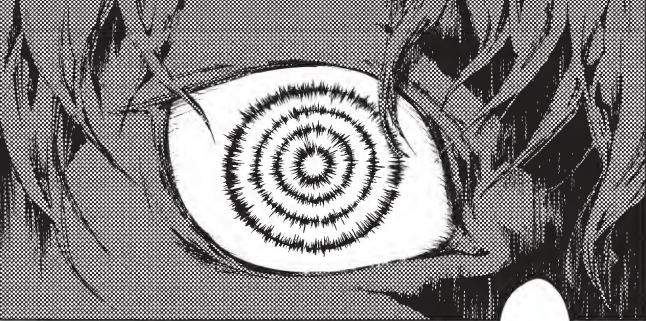


BUT
DON'T
TOUCH
MAKOTO'S
DRAWING.

I
DON'T
KNOW
WHO
YOU
ARE.











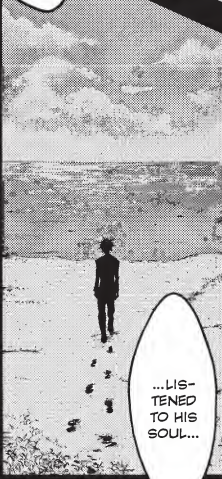




...HE
FOLLOWED
ITS PLAN
EXACTLY.

MAKOTO
NEVER
WAS A
GOOD
SWIMMER.
BUT HE
JUST...

PLAN FIDELITY RATE 100%



...LIST-
TENED
TO HIS
SOUL...

YES.

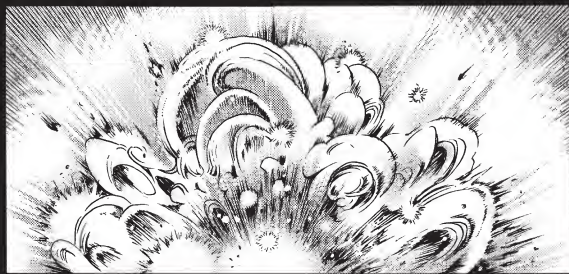
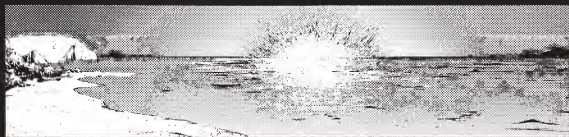
IT
WAS MY
JOB TO
RESCUE
SOULS,
SO MAYBE
IT WAS
DESTINY
...



...THAT
MY CHILD
WOULD
HAVE A
STONE THAT
WOULD BE
MOTHER TO
COUNTLESS
NEW
SOULS.

A
THANATO-
LITH
?!

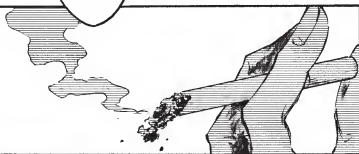
YOU
MEAN A
SOUL THAT
HAS REACHED
FULL MA-
TURITY AND
COME TO THE
END OF ITS
REBIRTH
CYCLE?





THEN, A
FIREWORKS
DISPLAY
THAT ONLY
COMES
ONCE IN
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.

AS A CLEANER,
IT WAS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL THING I
COULD HOPE TO SEE.
BUT AS A MOTHER,
IT WAS THE WORST.



...ALL I
COULD
DO WAS
DONATE HIS
SOULLESS
BODY FOR
THE GREATER
GOOD.





...I
EXPERIENCED
MAKOTO-KUN'S
FUNERAL
VICARIOUSLY.



I...

...LOOKED
AT HIS
FRIEND'S
MEMORIES.



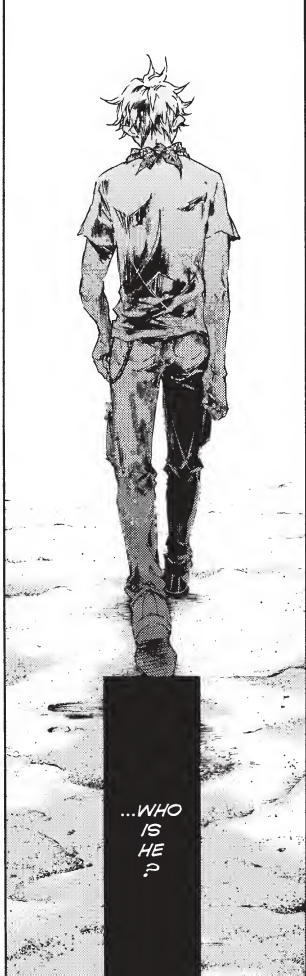
BUT
THEN...



...OH.

THEN
YOU
FELT THE
REALITY
...

...OF
MAKOTO'S
DEATH.





...BUT
IT WAS
USELESS
TO
FIGHT
IT.

I HOPED
I COULD
AT LEAST
KEEP HIS
BODY
HERE.



YOU
KNEW
IT WAS
ALMOST
TIME TO
DISPOSE
OF HIM.

...NATURE
IS REJECT-
ING HIS
EXISTENCE,
THAT'S
ALL.

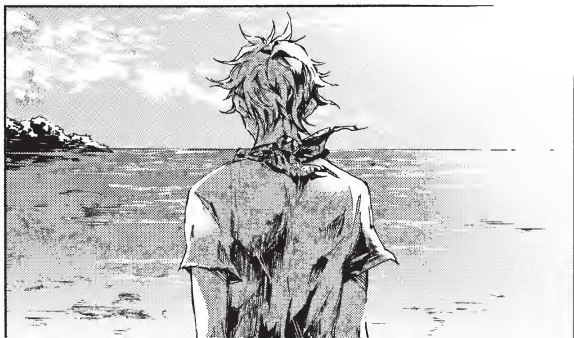


IT'S FATE.
THERE'S
NOTHING
YOU CAN
DO.

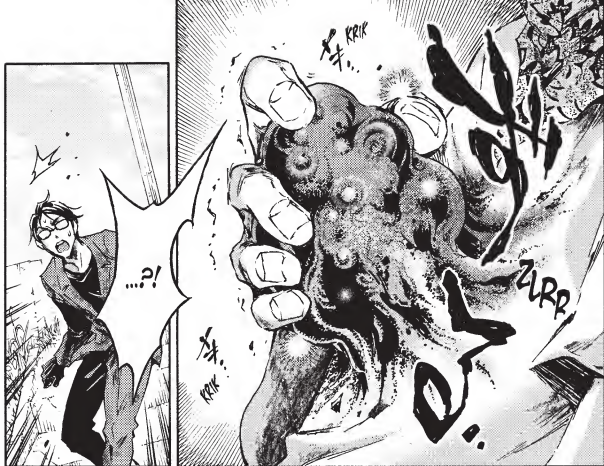
ALL WE
CAN DO IS
ACCEPT IT.
THAT GOES
FOR YOU
AS WELL.

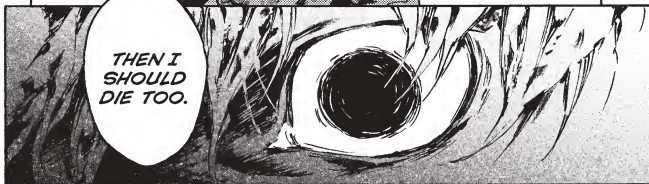


JUST
ACCEPT
THAT
IT'S THE
PROPER
ORDER OF
THINGS.









KROH...







I JUST
...

I
WANT
TO DIE,
OKAY!

NO!
I CAN'T
TAKE IT
ANY-
MORE!



GNW
GNW

GRAB

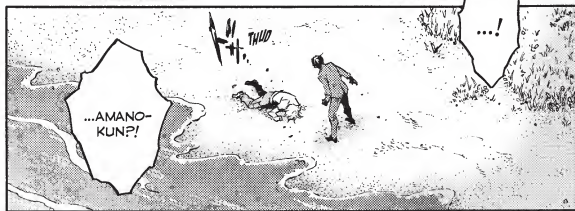


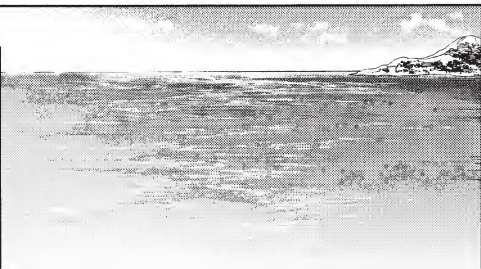
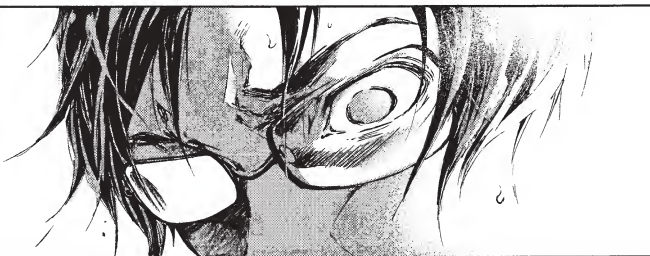
STOP
IT...

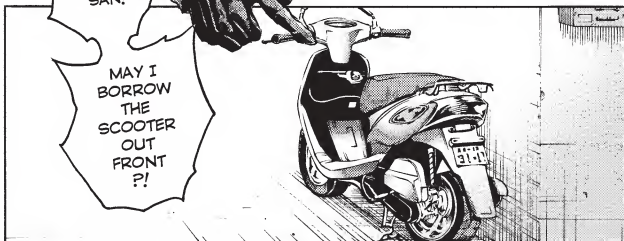
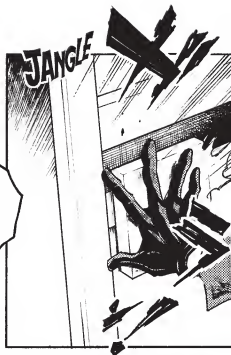
YOU...
ARE
AMANO-
KUN
!!

...AND
WHO
IS
THAT
?!











THE
LAWS
OF
NATURE
...



...CAN
EAT
SHIT
!

VROON!

Is there such a thing as a soul?

Since time immemorial, there have been countless stories about the soul. This is probably because thinking about the soul is the same as thinking about being human. In the broadest sense, all stories may be thematically divided into two categories: “what is a human?” and “what is the world?” Medical science and physics have different methods, but their goal is the same. The sciences don’t use the word “soul” because they have no way to observe it, so we can’t definitively state that the soul exists. Even so, reading the news about terminal care, the issue of brain death, robotic technology, AI, etc., I get the feeling that cutting-edge science is coming close to understanding that subject.

I don't think there's ever been a correct answer, now or in the past, to the question of "what is a soul?", but since I started *Livingstone* based on that theme, I think this manga should present a conclusion that makes sense for this story. I thank all you readers who have considered this question with me. Now then, where is our soulless Amano-kun headed?

Tomohiro Maekawa

From Niigata prefecture.

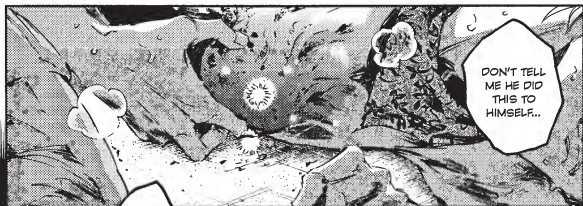
A writer and producer who writes slice of life stories that take place in supernatural settings. He has a wide range of work, from *Super Kabuki II* with Ennosuke Ichikawa IV, to modern theatre written in collaboration with Yukio Ninagawa.

Chairman of the Ikiume theatre troupe, his *Taiyou [The Sun]* won the grand prize in the Yomiuri Drama Awards.

Final Chapter My Home Town



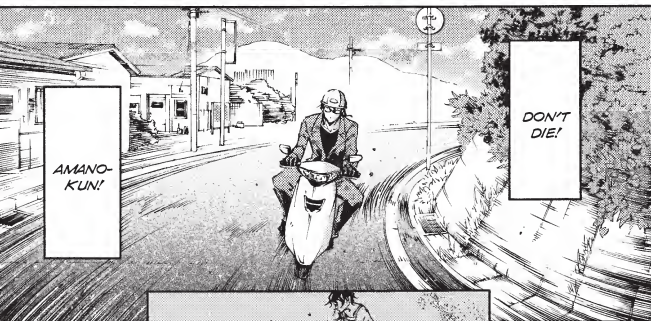
....!



DON'T TELL
ME HE DID
THIS TO
HIMSELF...

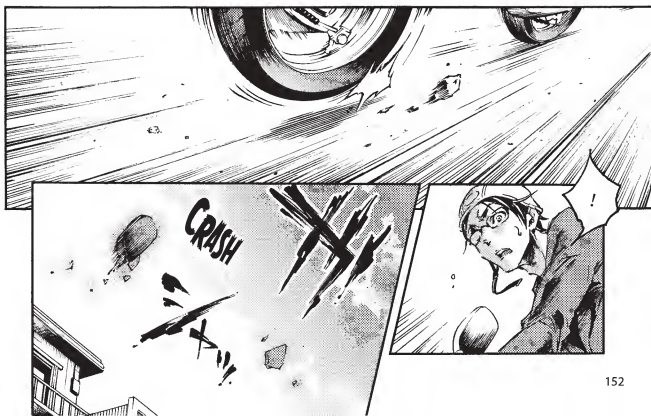
HE...
WANTS
TO DIE
?!

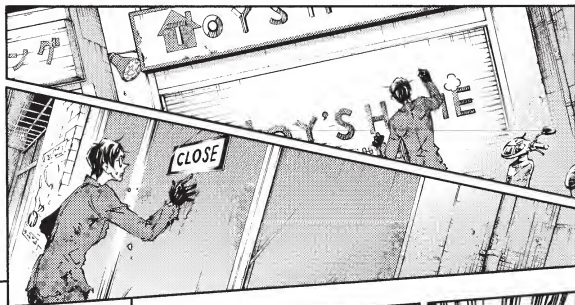


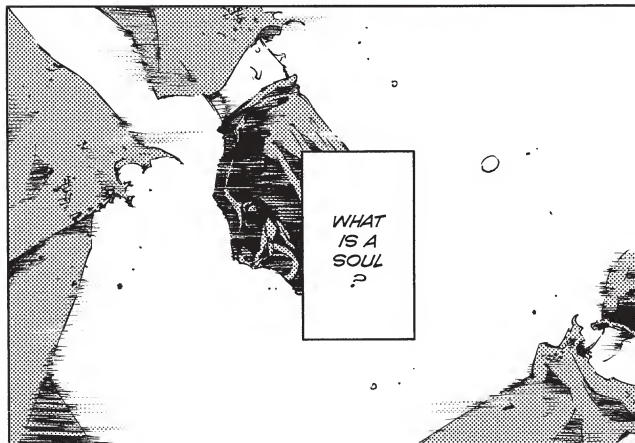
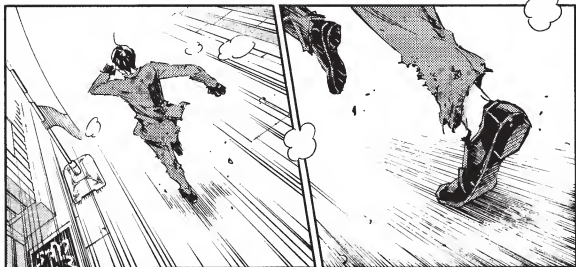


...I HAVE
NOTHING.





















GET
OVER
YOUR
STUPID
ADOLESCENT
MOOD
SWINGS
!!

"WHY
ARE
WE
ALIVE"
?

I
DON'T
KNOW
EITHER!
NOBODY
DOES
!



I
DON'T
WANT
YOU
TO DIE,
SO
YOU
CAN'T!

PEOPLE
AREN'T
BORN ALONE—
WE CAN'T
LIVE ALONE,
AND WE
SHOULDN'T
GO OFF DYING
ALONE!

WE'VE
SEEN A LOT
OF PEOPLE
TOGETHER,
RIGHT?!



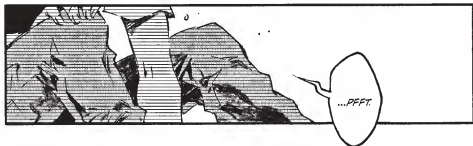
SO
DON'T
DIE,
AMANO-
KUN!

?!

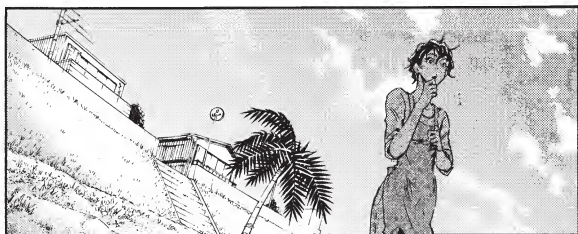
WHUMP

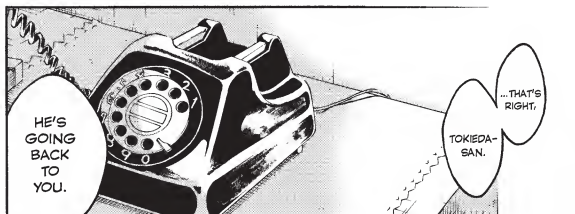
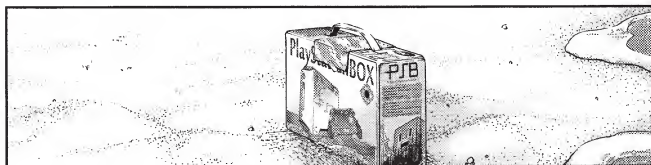
I GOT
YOUR
REASON
TO LIVE
RIGHT
HERE!

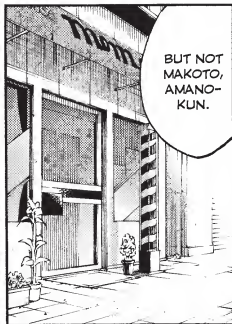


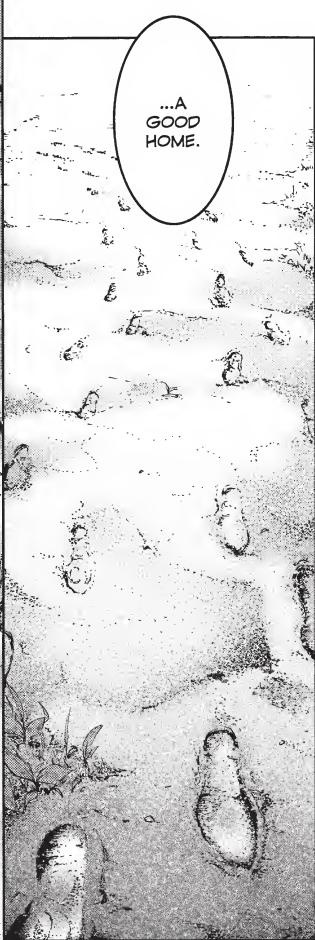




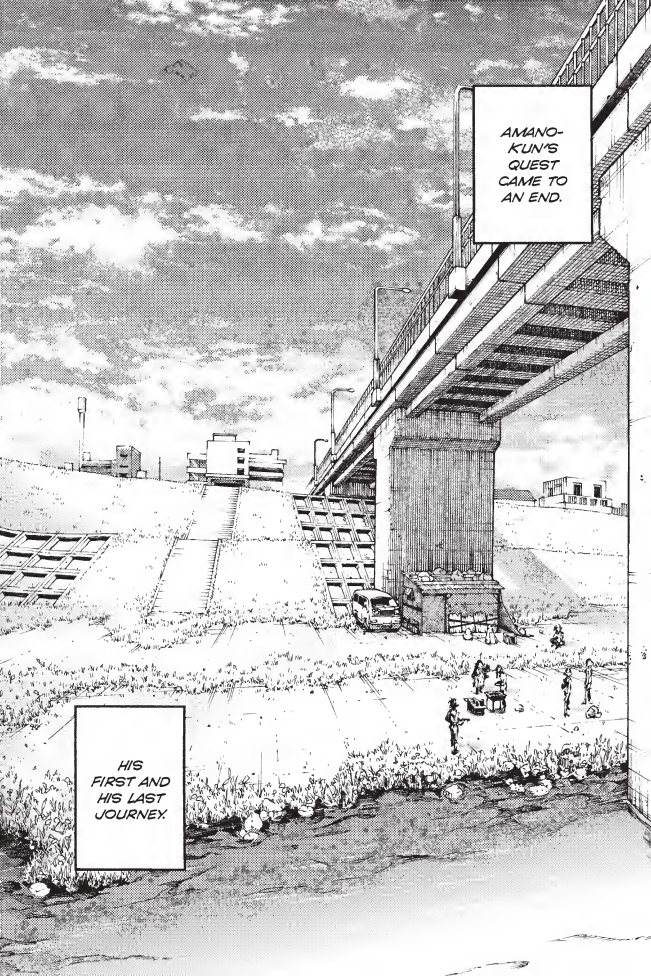






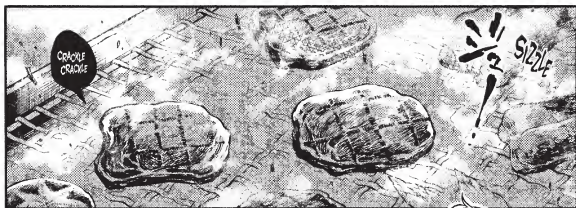






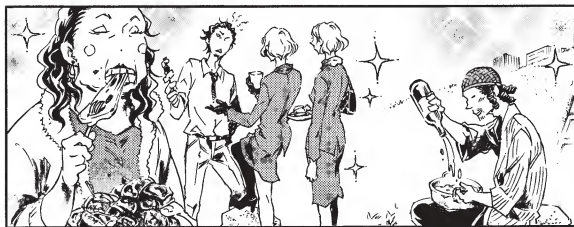
AMANO-
KUN'S
QUEST
CAME TO
AN END.

HIS
FIRST AND
HIS LAST
JOURNEY.



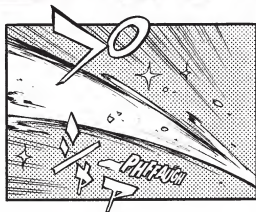
BOTTLE: Tea







IT'S
MY SPECIAL
STEWED CARP
SOUP DRESSED
WITH JELLYFISH
ICE CREAM.



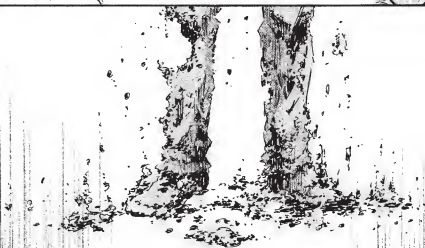




*I'M
HOME.*



... YEAH.





...?!
WHY ?!

AMANO-KUN ?!

KRGH...



THIS...

...IS THE
LAW OF
NATURE.



...FIGURES.



?!
...
...
...



SO
ONCE HE
BECOMES
HUMAN,
HE'S
DISPOSED
OFF?!

WHY
DOES
HE HAVE
TO DIE
TWICE
?!

...WHY
?!
COME
ON!

WHY
?!



I FINALLY
FIGURED
IT OUT.
I KNOW WHY
I COULDN'T
PULL MY
PSYCHOLITH
OUT.

I
MEAN,
HEY...

WHA-
?!

...I DON'T
WANNA DIE
LOOKING
AT YOUR
DIRTY
MUG.



KRSH...

IT'S
LIKE...

BACK THEN,
I HADN'T
GIVEN MY
PERMISSION
AFTER ALL.



SO I
DON'T
THINK
IT'S SO
BAD.

IT'S
NOT
THAT
I'M
DYING
TWICE.

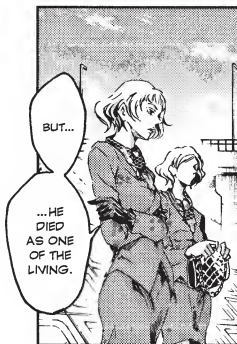
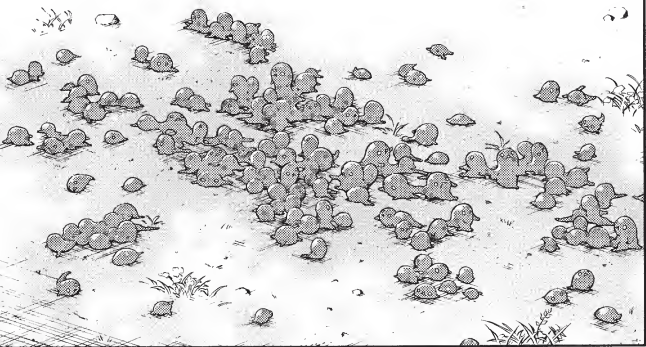


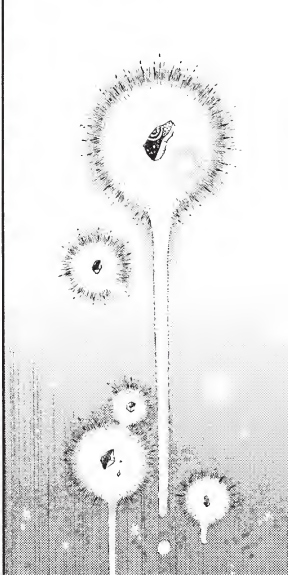
IT'S
THAT I
LIVED
TWICE.



I
WANTED
TO LIVE
AS ME—
AS
AMANO.





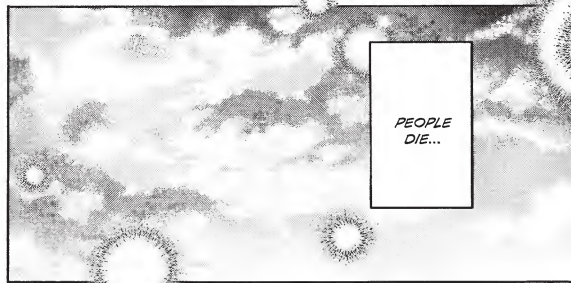
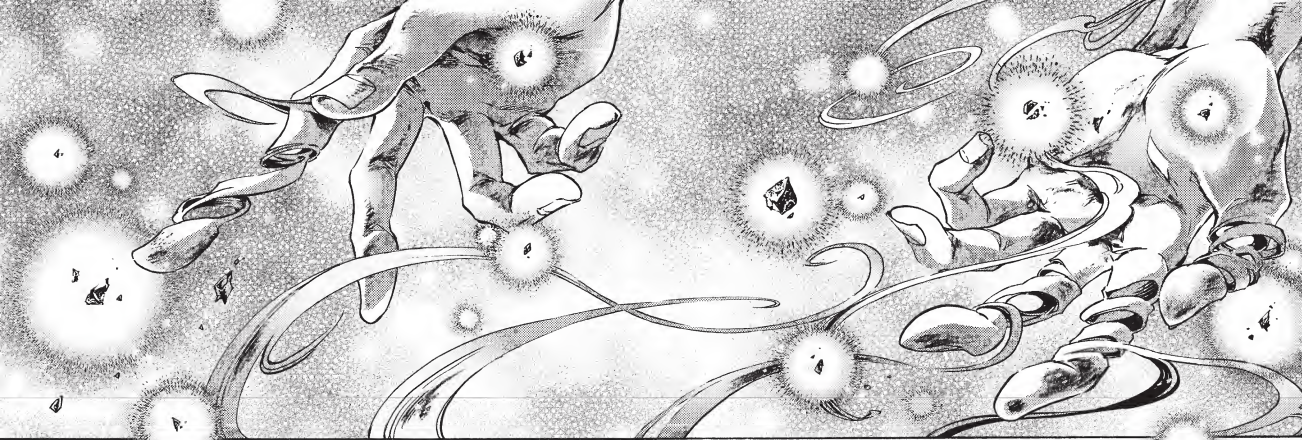




THAT
MAKES
IT...

...A FINE
PSYCHOLITH,
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?







BUT HIS
SOUL...

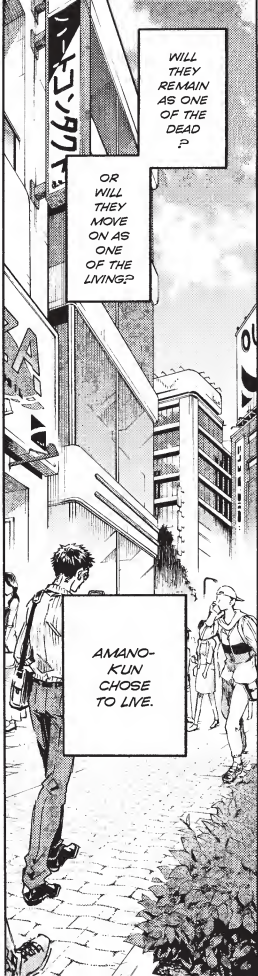
...SHOWS
ITSELF IN
THE TIME
HE SPENT
HERE.

THERE'S NO
DOUBT THAT I
ACCELERATED
AMANO-KUN'S
DISPOSAL.



WILL
THEY
REMAIN
AS ONE
OF THE
DEAD
?

OR
WILL
THEY
MOVE
ON AS
ONE
OF THE
LIVING?



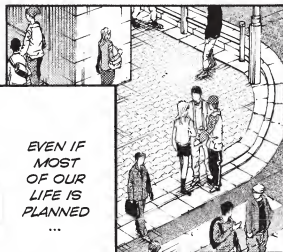
AMANO-
KUN
CHOSE
TO LIVE.



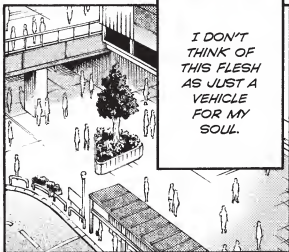
IT'S
WITHIN
THE WILL
TO LIVE
THAT THE
SOUL
GROWS.



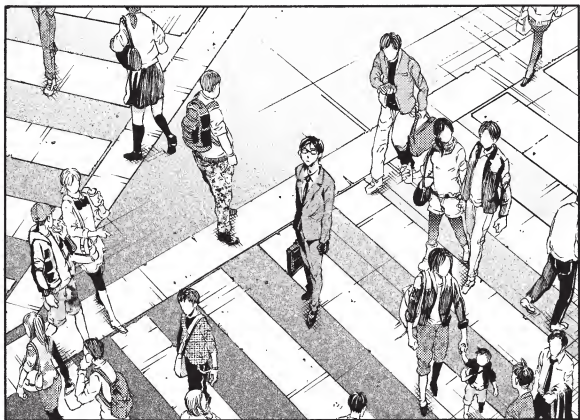
AMANO-
KUN
SHOWED
ME THAT.



EVEN IF
MOST
OF OUR
LIFE IS
PLANNED
...

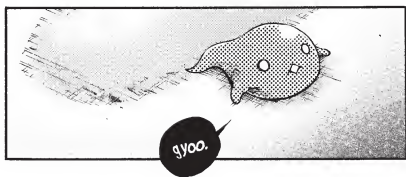


I DON'T
THINK OF
THIS FLESH
AS JUST A
VEHICLE
FOR MY
SOUL.





**...WE
ARE
FREE.**





I want to thank everyone,
starting with Kazuma
Kondô who did art and
consultation with me,
my art staff, the designer
Kawase-san, all my editors
through the years, and
most of all, Maekawa-san
who wrote the original
story. I pray that all of you
who read this will be free.

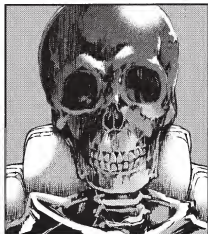
Jinsei Kataoka
April 2015

*Thank you
for staying
with us all
this time.*

PLUM BLOOD



TRANSLATION NOTES





MENSORE TO OKINAWA

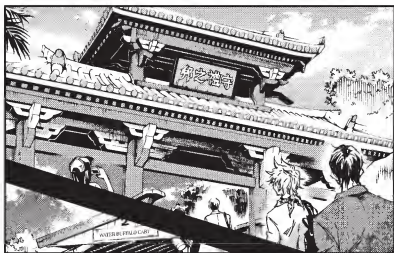
page 10

Although Okinawa is a part of Japan now, it was originally part of the Ryukyu Kingdom and as such had its own language. Much of that language is still part of what is called the Okinawan dialect. The reader can guess from the sign that *mensore* (men-SO-ray) means "welcome".



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO OKINAWA
page 11

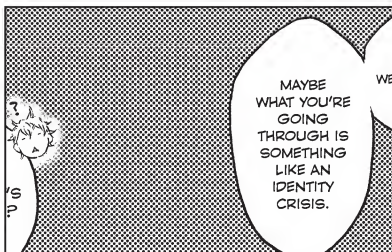
This *Rurupu* travel guide is the *Livingstone* version of the *Rurubu* series of travel guides. On the cover is a creature from Okinawan folklore saying, “*hai-sai*,” which is Okinawan for, “Hey, how’s it going?” “*hai-sai*” is the masculine form of the word; a woman would say, “*hai-tai*.”



OKINAWA SIGHTSEEING TOUR

page 12

Although Tokieda specifically told Sakurai that this was not a vacation, he and Amano have become tourists, visiting famous Okinawan places in an attempt to find Amano's heritage. The first stop is Shureimon, a gate that was built nearly 500 years ago, back when Okinawa belonged to the Ryukyu Kingdom. Next, they visit the Himeyuri Monument, a tribute to the Himeyuri students, or Lily Corps, who were students and teachers from women's high schools in Okinawa that formed a nursing unit for the Japanese Army during the Battle of Okinawa. After a tour of Taketomi village via water buffalo-drawn carriage, they head off to Pineapple Park in Nago. Then it's off to the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, one of the largest aquariums in the world, boasting a tank that houses manta rays and whale sharks. Of course, no one can go to Okinawa without seeing plenty of *shisa*, a Ryukyuan mythological creature that wards off evil spirits, much like the gargoyles of Europe. Finally, they visited Ryukyu Mura Village, where they went to the Habu Center to see the indigenous *habu* pit vipers.



IDENTITY CRISIS

page 13

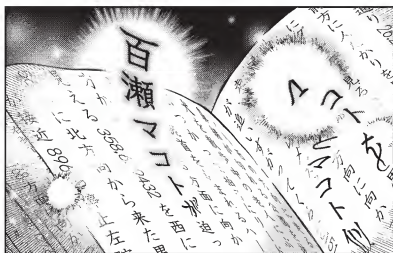
The Japanese that was used here is actually something called *chūnibyō* (literally, “second year of junior high illness”). Though a sort of identity crisis, it’s better identified as the self-conscious stage of puberty, hence its name indicating an illness that takes place in the second year of junior high school (typically ages 13-14). This is not a real illness, but more of a slang term to describe a set of behaviors that occur in teenagers around this time, and in some cases, adults who act like teenagers. The main symptoms are related to delusional thoughts that make the afflicted believe that they are special in some way, such as thinking that they are an alien or have special powers. This could also lead to questions of identity and in turn, an identity crisis.



TACO RICE AND AWAMORI

page 26

Both of these are local specialties of Okinawa. Taco rice, as one might expect, is taco-seasoned ground beef on rice, often served with such taco regulars as lettuce, tomato, and shredded cheese. *Awamori* is a distilled liquor made from long-grained Indica rice.



REMOVING SOUL DATA

page 55

Though Azusa later explains what's happening in this scene, some of the details may have been lost on those who are unable to read Japanese. Soga's soul has been opened up and perused like a book—a book that seemingly contains every single piece of information from his life. The Japanese text included reads like a very detailed diary with things like, "...restaurant, drinks beverage, 14-minute break, rides motorized bicycle along Route 58." And in the second panel featuring this "book" it details the scene that just happened, with things like, "...sandal strap breaks, trips into park rail, bumps into old man walking dog, causing him to let go of leash, dog bites him on wrist..."



THE 40-MAT SUITE

page 73

In Japan, the standard measure of floor space is done in *tatami* mats—a type of straw mat that is the standard flooring in traditional Japanese-style rooms. It's a rectangular mat which is twice as long as it is wide, and one is about 17.8 square feet in area.



“MISTER?”

page 104

As Amano and Sakurai get closer to Amano's roots, his personality begins to change. Normally, Amano refers to himself using the first-person pronoun *ore*, which means “I” but is a very casual way to say it. But here, he uses the more polite *boku*, which also means “I.” Someone who usually uses *ore* will generally switch to *boku* if he wants to show respect to the person he is speaking to, but since Amano has never showed respect to anyone, Sakurai can't help but wonder about the change. Since both words translate to “I,” translators have to get creative when replicating this change. In this case, it's possible that Amano's body remembered using *boku* as a child, so the translators chose to have him call their driver “mister,” as a childlike way of showing respect.



AMANO'S PSYCHOLITH

page 183

The word that Sakurai used for “remains”, which he then defined as “proof of existence,” is *konseki*. Written another way, the word *konseki* is also the Japanese word for “psycholith.” In other words, by being a *konseki* (remains), the proof of Amano’s existence becomes his *konseki* (psycholith)—his soul.

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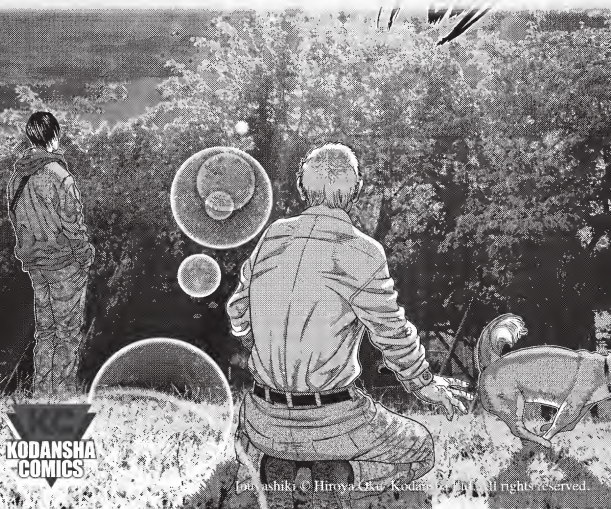
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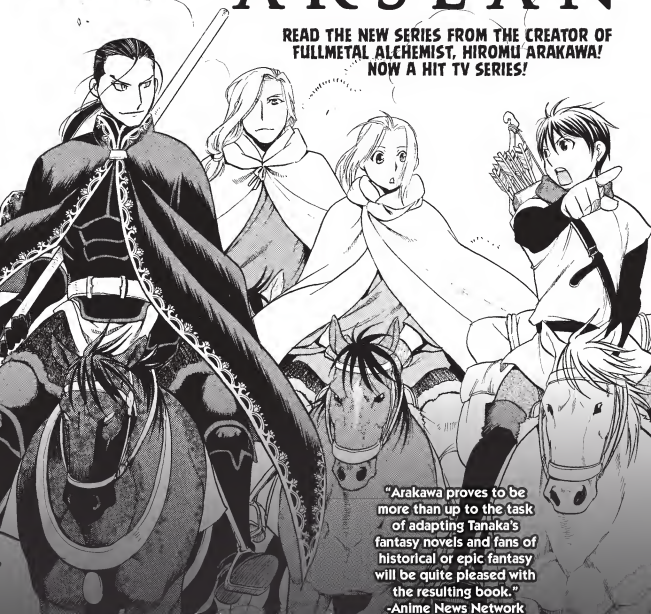
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高専

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